

Serial No.: 09/353,160

Attorney Docket No.: 99P7704US

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-24 are pending. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 17-21 were indicated to be allowable. Claims 2-4, 7, 9, 10, 14, and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if amended into independent form and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. These claims have been so amended and thus should be allowable. Claim 21 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 3 and 12 have been amended to provide periods. Claims 23 and 24 have been added to more particularly point out Applicants' invention. Applicants note that claim 22 was added in a response a previous Official Action and does not appear to be addressed in the current one.

Claims 3 and 12 were objected to because they were missing periods. These claims have been amended to provide the periods. As such, Applicants submit that the objection is obviated.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 11-13 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkins, U.S. Patent No. 6,496,477 ("Perkins") in view of Kanter, PCT Publication No. WO 98/59470 ("Kanter"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Perkins or Kanter, either singly or in combination.

In particular, an aspect of the present invention is to provide H.323 or other telecommunication endpoints with a control layer which provides a communication domain identification (CDI) assigned to a user during call setup or other situations in which it is desirable to have domain-restricted functionality. In the call setup embodiment, the CDI may be used during the address resolution phase of the H.323 direct signaling mode. In particular, the CDI is used to determine whether the call is to a user at another extension of the same company. In the direct signaling mode, the communication domain identification control layer accesses a local database to make

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this determination. Similarly, the CDI may be provided during call setup in gatekeeper routed signaling. In this case, a communication domain identification control layer provides the CDI to the gatekeeper. The gatekeeper then performs the address resolution using the CDI to determine whether the call is to a user of another extension of the same company. Embodiments of the present invention thus allow for more than one virtual domain to be associated with a single gatekeeper.

Thus, claim 1 recites "wherein said H.323 controller provides a communication domain identifier for address resolution during a media communication, said communication domain identifier permitting use of virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper based on said communication domain identifier or permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on said communication domain identifier;" claim 6 recites "wherein said controller is configured to maintain a database for identifying virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers;" claim 11 recites "wherein predetermined numbers of said plurality of endpoints define virtual domains associated with a same gatekeeper or virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers;" and claim 17 recites "storing a database of communication domain identifiers (CDI) in said plurality of endpoints, said CDI identifying an association of said endpoints with virtual domains associated with one of said at least one gatekeeper; and accessing said database to determine a CDI of a called party when a call is made."

In contrast, Perkins provides for "network path diversity" by providing for and defining an alternate transmission path during call setup. Perkins does not, however, appear to relate to communication domain identifiers or indeed, domains, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Kanter is relied on for allegedly teaching a gatekeeper and a virtual domain. Kanter, however, does not appear to provide for, inter alia, multiple domains associated with a single gatekeeper, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Thus, if anything, Kanter is representative of the problem solved by the present invention. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider ad

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withdraw the rejection of the claims.

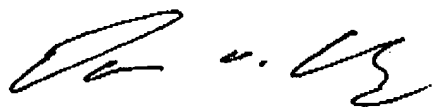
Newly added claims 23 and 24 are believed allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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